



**The Upper Room:
From Fear to Faith
(John 20:19-31 ESV)**

John 20:19-20

- **19** On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jewish religious leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."
- **20** When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

John 20:21-23

- **21** Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."
- **22** And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
- **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."



John 20:24-25

- **24** Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.
- **25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

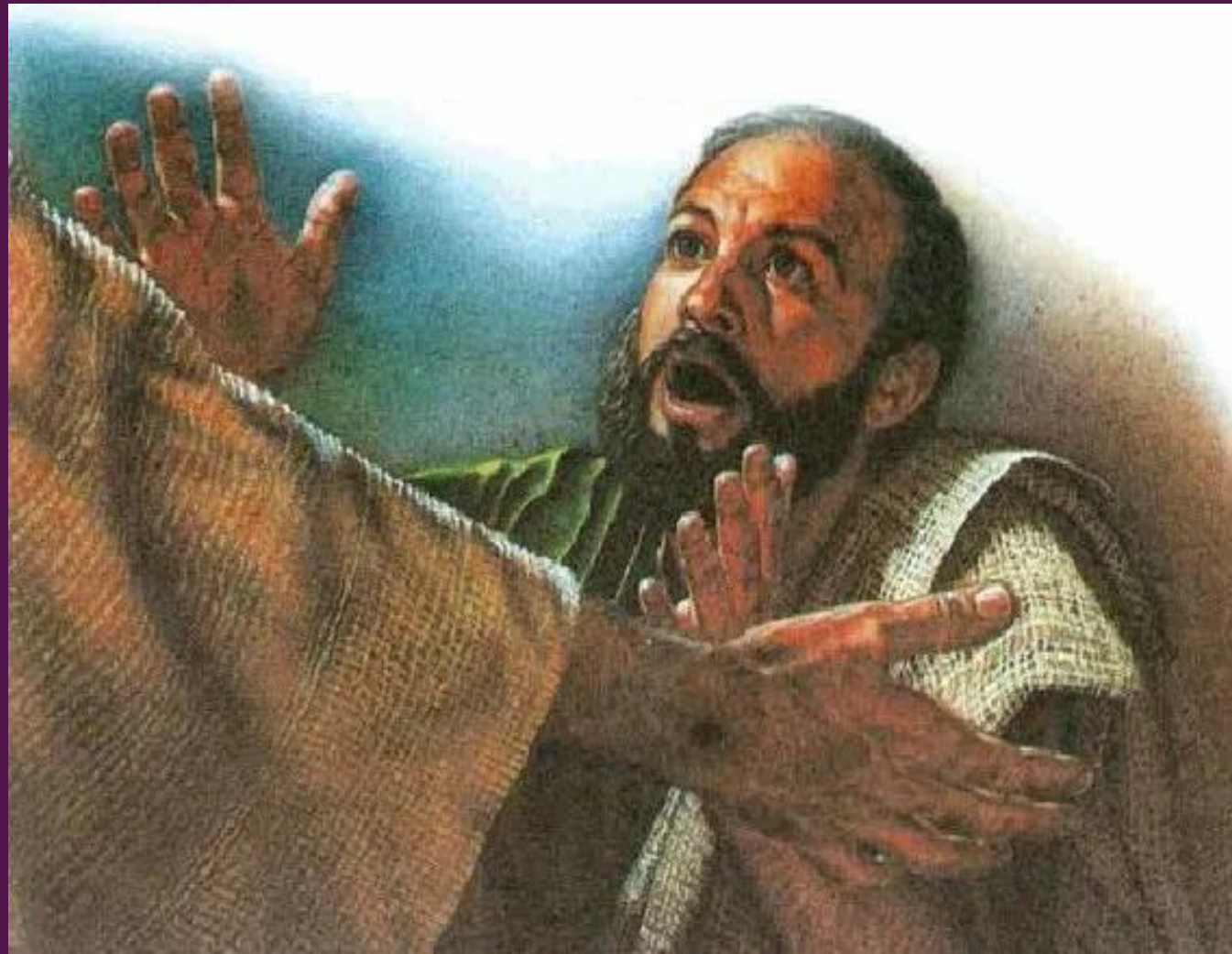
John 20:26-27

- ²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."
- ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve but believe."



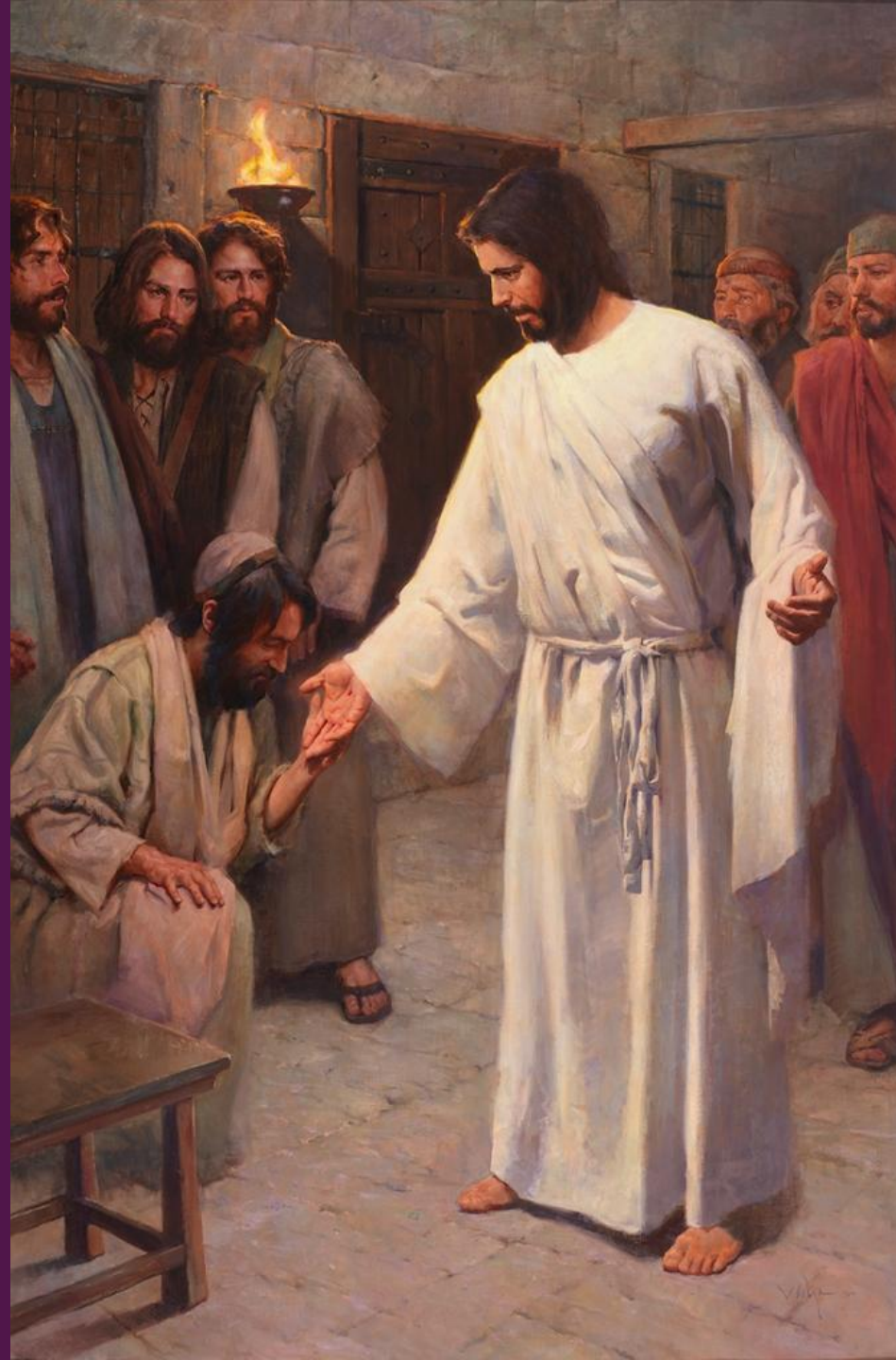
John 20:28

- ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"



John 20:29

- ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



John 20:30-31

- ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

I. The Apostles: From Fear to Faith

- On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked **where the disciples were for fear** of the Jewish religious leaders (John 20:19)

A. Jesus Promises Peace/Shalom

Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “**Peace be with you.**” ²⁰ When he had said this, **he showed them his hands and his side.** Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “**Peace be with you.**” (John 20:19b-21a)

- I came that they may **have life and have it abundantly.** (John 10:10b)

B. Empowered by the Holy Spirit (John 20:22-23)

- As the Father has sent me, even so **I am sending you.** ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “**Receive the Holy Spirit.** (John 20:21b-22)

Takeaway

- **When following the Lord, the situation or our abilities can change quickly**

II. Thomas: From Skepticism to Belief

A. Doubting Thomas

- ²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin,^[d] was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “**Unless I see** in his hands the mark of the nails, **and place** my finger into the mark of the nails, **and place** my hand into his side, **I will never believe.**” (John 20:24-25)

B. Believing Thomas

- ²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “**Put your finger here**, and see my hands; and **put out your hand**, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve but believe.” . . . ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**” (John 20:26-27, 29)

Takeaway

- **“People say stuff” in the heat of the moment**
- **People can change, given new information or insights**
- **So don't stop praying for others to come to know the Lord**

III. Jesus: The Whole Fulness of Deity

A. Jesus Messiah

- ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but **these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God** (John 20:30-31a)

B. Fully Human and Fully God

- ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and **my God!**” (John 20:28)
- ⁹ For **in him the whole fullness of deity** dwells bodily (Colossians 2:9)
- **God Comes to Us!**
- ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:8-9)

Takeaway

- A truly radical (Latin: *radix*, “root”) assertion: that Jesus is God!

IV. Believers: Life in His Name

A. Born Again to New Life

- ³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)

B. Through Faith in Jesus Christ

- And that **by believing** you may have **life in his name** (John 20:31b)

Takeaway

- **When a person truly experiences God through Jesus the Christ, there is no turning back**
- ¹⁶ Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ **And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”** ¹⁸ **And immediately they left their nets and followed him.** ¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ **And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.** (Mark 1:16-20)
- Let all that I am **wait quietly before God,**
for my hope is in him.
⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress where **I will not be shaken.** (Psalm 62:5-6 NLT)

A silhouette of two hands holding a glowing cross against a sunset background. The hands are positioned in the center-right of the frame, with the fingers spread and the palms facing each other. A bright, glowing cross is centered between the hands, emitting a strong light that creates a lens flare effect. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Let Us Pray